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RESPONSE

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A Report on Actions for A Better Environment

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RESPONSE is a periodic report from the United States Department of Agriculture on USDA's many areas of action to remedy environmental problems. Department programs protect and improve the environment through research, forestry, conservation and a wide range of rural and community services.

SATELLITE TO CARRY AG EXPERIMENTS

The first experimental Earth Resources Technology Satellite to be launched by NASA late this month will carry four experiments of the Agricultural Research Service. It will record data which could help scientists identify crops; estimate crop yields; detect insect, disease and weed infestations; observe soil nutrient and moisture conditions and monitor pollution patterns.

DDT BANNED

On June 14, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus banned DDT uses in this country effective December 31, 1972. Public health and quarantine uses are not cancelled by the action. Also, the order does not affect exports of the pesticide for use in other countries. In addition, three minor crop uses for which no effective pest control alternatives exist are not cancelled, the uses for protection of green peppers, onions and sweet potatoes in storage.

NOISE BARRIERS

According to a recently completed study at the University of Nebraska, using trees and shrubs in combination with hills, embankments and other land-forms can cut traffic noise levels by half and even more in some instances. FS

INSECT DAMAGE IN EASTERN FORESTS

Estimates of the amount of damage caused to the nation's saw-timber by insects annually are sometimes noted as "more than is lost to forest fires" and "more than enough timber to build 1-1/3 million homes." Entomologist Whiteford L. Baker describes insects and the damage they cause to forests in a 642-page cloth bound volume titled "Eastern Forest Insects." Insects discussed in the book are those primarily occurring entirely east of the 100th meridian or in both the East and West. A companion volume covering western forest insects is in preparation. Copies of "Eastern Forest Insects," MP #1175, are available for \$5.00 each from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

GOALS FOR BETTER ENVIRONMENT	<p>A committee representing Land Grant Universities, the Environmental Protection Agency and the USDA recently identified priorities for improving agricultural and forestry environments through State and Federal research and extension efforts. Three areas needing improvement and slated for increased attention according to the committee are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Techniques and methods of applying chemicals to reduce runoff and pollution, . Guidelines to control animal wastes on feedlots and farms, and . Data collection necessary to register safe and effective pesticides for use on specialty crops grown on small areas.
PESTICIDE REVIEW - 1971	<p>"The Pesticide Review 1971" gives a clear summary of legal actions concerning pesticides during the year as well as use data and information on the major kinds of pest control programs. Single copies are available upon request to the editor of RESPONSE.</p>
CHILDREN'S FOREST DEDICATED	<p>A 177-acre tract of land was dedicated recently in the George Washington National Forest (near Washington, D.C.) as a National Children's Forest. A feature of the dedication was the planting of seedlings by nearly 1,000 children. The area to be replanted was ravaged by fire last year. This is one of three National Children's Forests established in the country with trees provided through contributions from a private California based firm. The two other Children's Forests are in the Mark Twain National Forest of Missouri and the San Bernadino National Forest in California.</p>
ENVIRONMENTAL THRUST	<p>A new slide set and film strip titled, "Environmental Thrust" aims to inform people of help they may get from USDA offices in support of community efforts to improve the environment. A cassette carrying music and dialogue helps tell the story. Order the filmstrip directly from: Photo Lab. Inc., 3825 Georgia Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. 20011 (\$5.50), or the slide set from: Office of Information, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250 (\$13). The cassette is available from either for \$3.</p>
U.S. LAND RESOURCES	<p>Want to know more about our national land resources and their limitations? You will want to review a copy of the publication, "2/3 of Our Land," SCS Program Aid #984. It presents in easy-to-read fashion a comprehensive sketch of U.S. land (soil) resources. Single copies are available from the editor of RESPONSE upon request.</p>
GRANTS	<p>Grants totaling \$500,000 were recently awarded by USDA to 10 experiment stations for research on non-chemical control of pests. CSRS</p>
TIMBER RESIDUES	<p>National concern for environmental quality has focused attention on residues of logging operations. To reduce the amount of this material left after timber harvesting Forest Service has modified its timber sales contracts to provide incentives to the timber harvester to use small material formerly abandoned at the site.</p>

TRANSPLANTING TREES AND SHRUBS	Many things can be done to help insure successful transplanting of trees and shrubs. "Transplanting Ornamental Trees and Shrubs," (HG 192) provides step-by-step instructions for digging up and replanting, along with illustrations. Root pruning--the key to successfully moving wild trees and shrubs--is also discussed. Instructions are given for the proper care of the transplant until it becomes established. Single copies are available from the editor of RESPONSE upon request. ARS
ALASKA TREES AND SHRUBS	The most comprehensive handbook ever compiled about the woody plants of Alaska is off press. "Alaska Trees and Shrubs" contains descriptions and illustrations of the 33 trees and 94 shrubs that grow wild throughout the State. Copies of the 265-page publication are on sale from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$3.25. Requests should be made for AH 410, Forest Service, USDA, Cat. #A1.76:410, Stock #0100-1344.
CALIFORNIA VEGETATION PROFILES	The most ambitious attempt ever made to describe the complex vegetation of California is now in print. Of special interest to teachers and students "Profiles of California Vegetation" is a collection of 57 elevational profiles which illustrate the natural vegetation of about one-fifth of the State as it was in the 1930's. Copies of the report, Research Paper PSW-76, by William B. Critchfield, are on sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20013. The cost is \$2.50 per copy. Ask for stock number 0101--0213/A13.78:PSW76. FS
FIRE TRACK	Scientists at the Forest Service Fire Lab in Riverside, California recently developed the prototype of a portable television system for forest fire reconnaissance. Called FIRE TRACK, the system includes a television camera with an infrared sensor, a portable TV receiver, monitor, and a recorder. The low cost system can be installed in an aircraft or used on the ground. It has all the advantages of TV--moving picture, instantaneous display, stop action, instant replay, picture storage, and the capacity to record sound.
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS	The "102 Monitor" put out by the Council on Environmental Quality provides a summary of all environmental impact statements and related information. It is now no longer available free of charge, but may be ordered for \$6.50 a year from: Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.
FRUIT AND TREE NUT INSECTS	"Insects on Deciduous Fruits and Tree Nuts in the Home Orchard" (HG 190) is now available upon request to the editor of RESPONSE. It discusses appropriate insecticide sprays for control as well as tells how to recognize the more common insects and mites that attack deciduous fruits and tree nuts. Beneficial insects, what they do and how to spot them is also discussed.

PICTURE
STORIES

Publication editors may be interested in the following new picture stories: THE GYPSY MOTH--A look at the fight against one of this country's major pests of trees (Picture Story 252). Presents pictures of Gypsy Moth caterpillar infestation, research on control measures, and map of infestation and spread of moth to date. (APHIS) GRASSHOPPERS (Picture Story 255) shows grasshopper infestations and controlled aerial application of malathion using ultra low volume techniques. (APHIS) And lastly, 1971: RESEARCH ROUNDUP (Picture Story 247) illustrates some of the work done by USDA researchers last year, all of it of interest to environmentalists. (ARS) Free copies of these picture stories are available from the editor of RESPONSE upon request. Using these picture stories, editors may order prints.

PESTICIDES
COURSES

The Environmental Protection Agency is again giving courses to provide training assistance and services in the environmental and health aspects of pesticides to personnel from State, Federal and local private agencies concerned with problems associated with pesticide usage. The pay-as-you-go courses are given in Atlanta, Georgia, and at field locations where demand exists for it. Courses scheduled for Atlanta are: "Safety and Pesticide Usage," September 18-22; "Principles of Chemical Epidemiology," November 14-17; "Pesticides and Public Health" (introductory course), February 6-9, 1973; (advanced course) May 15-18, 1973. Further information is available from: EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs, Div. of Pesticide Community Studies, 4770 Buford Highway, Chamblee, Georgia 30341.

LANDSCAPE
FOR LIVING
YEARBOOK

"Landscape for Living" is the title of the 1972 Yearbook of Agriculture which will be published in time for fall gardening. The 416-page hardback book on how to improve the environment with plants will include many how-to-do-it chapters for home gardeners. It will have a 32-page color photo section. Copies will be available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, after the publication date for \$3.50 each. Chapters on practical home gardening will cover shrubs, perennials, annuals, lawns, vegetables, fruits, herbs, plant propagation, greenhouses, fertilizing, mulching, and composting. Other chapters will deal with container gardening, landscaping limited areas, ground covers, minimum care plantings, controlling erosion, brightening neighborhoods, and attracting birds. The book will also discuss ways to ease visual pollution, plants as climate changers, new towns, land planning, rent-a-garden projects, and redesigning downtown shopping areas.